



DRAFT



City of Seattle

**FAMILIES AND EDUCATION  
LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, October 13, 2015**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tim Burgess, Sandi Everlove, Jonathan Knapp, Kevin Washington, Saadia Hamid, Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Marty McLaren, Charles Knutson, Larry Nyland, Cristina Gonzalez

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Holly Miller (DEEL), Kacey Guin (DEEL), Sarah Wilhelm (PHSKC), Regina Jones (Mayor's Office), Carmela Dellino (Consultant), Laurie Morrison (Consultant), Sara Rigel (PHSKC), Jessica Knaster Wasse (PHSKC), Charles Wright (SPS), Jerry DeGriek (PHSKC), Alyssa Pyke (Neighborcare Health), Nick Canavas (Neighborcare Health), Kearstyn Leu (Neighborcare Health), Melissa Lo (Neighborcare Health), Lisa Thocher (Neighborcare Health), Alison Burpee (Neighborcare Health), Gina Gutmann (Odessa Brown Children's Clinic), Terri Helm-Remund (West Seattle Elementary), Laura Bermes (West Seattle Elementary)

Holly Miller called the meeting to order at West Seattle Elementary. H. Miller announced the appointment of the new DEEL director, Dwane Chappelle.

H. Miller asked the group if there were any changes to the September 8<sup>th</sup> LOC draft minutes. No changes were requested and the minutes were approved. H. Miller reviewed the agenda which included an overview of the Elementary Health Investments.

**Elementary Health Investments Overview**

Sarah Wilhelm presented on the Elementary Health Investments.

Kevin Washington asked about the difference between counselors and mental health therapists. S. Wilhelm answered that counselors are SPS staff who work on social/emotional supports for the school and students, as well as discipline issues using a prevention approach. Mental health therapists are employed by community partners to provide more intense mental health services to students. Jonathan Knapp noted that there are few elementary schools counselors remaining in SPS. S. Wilhelm said that the different positions allowed for a tiered system of support for students. Regina Jones asked if there was a way to track longitudinal outcomes of students. S. Wilhelm said yes, the goal was to track those outcomes. Nick Canavas said they has selected the elementary schools based on feeder patterns into the middle and high schools that had Levy-funded health investments. R. Jones noted that philanthropists would be very interested in long-term outcomes of a preventative model. N. Canavas said they were finding that students were more likely to come back for mental health

services in middle school, if they had received those services in elementary schools. Sandi Everlove asked if they had seen any effects on adult health needs. Saadia Hamid asked about families being connected to a medical home and other support offered. S. Wilhelm stated that the clinics help families enroll in insurance and find them a medical home. K. Washington asked who initiates a mental health visit. Lisa Thocher said a referral can come from the family, student, teacher or other staff member.

S. Wilhelm presented the performance of the elementary health investments over the past three years. J. Knapp asked if the performance metrics were negotiable. Kacey Guin said that the performance metrics were aligned with each specific funded strategy and group of students being served.

A panel of school staff and providers, including Laura Bermes (School Counselor), Terri Helm-Remund (School Nurse), Kearstyn Leu (Nurse Practitioner) Melissa Lo (Nurse Practitioner) and Gina Guttman (Mental Health Therapist) came up to answer questions. S. Wilhelm asked the panel to describe the biggest health issues impacting academic achievement. WSE staffer said that asthma was a key issue for elementary students, noting how it negatively impacts school attendance. Panelists also discussed mental health issues.

Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis asked what percentage of students served by the elementary health clinics were refugee/immigrants. L. Bermes said 30% of the students were ELL and that over 50% of parents were not born in the United States. She noted that many parents need support navigating the health care system. S. Hamid asked how the providers served non-English speaking families. G. Guttman said that there are many bi-lingual staff at the school, but they also use medical interpreter from Odessa Brown. K. Washington asked if vision care was available. K. Leu said they did vision screenings at the school and then set up appointments for student to receive follow-up care. S. Hamid asked about the success of therapy with students experiencing behavioral issues. G. Guttman answered that it was critical that the staff work with both the individual student, the family, and the student's teacher in order to have success. S. Everlove noted the importance of identifying and filling the gaps in service for students' mental and physical health.

At 4:30 p.m., the group toured the health clinic at West Seattle Elementary.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.